

Message Text

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SUBJECT: LIFTING MILITARY AID EMBARGO FROM TURKEY CHARACTERIZED AS
INTERNAL AFFAIR OF U.S. ACCORDING TO "OBSERVERS" IN ATHENS

1. THREE ATHENS NEWSPAPERS ON SEPTEMBER 28 INTEGRATED
INTO THEIR STORIES ON THE UPCOMING CONGRESSIONAL VOTE ON
THE TURKISH MILITARY AID EMBARGO THE COMMENTS OF POLITICAL
AND DIPLOMATIC "OBSERVERS" IN ATHENS (OBVIOUSLY A
GOVERNMENT SOURCE) THAT SUCH A QUESTION CONSTITUTES AN
INTERNAL AFFAIR OF THE UNITED STATES. A SIMILAR STORY
ALSO APPEARED IN THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY
BULLETIN OF SEPTEMBER 29.

2. THE REPORT IN INDEPENDENT, PRO-GOVERNMENT KATHIMERINI,
WHICH WAS THE FULLEST ACCOUNT, READ AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE.
POLITICAL OBSERVERS IN ATHENS POINTED OUT YESTERDAY THAT
GREECE'S OPPOSITION TO THE RESUMPTION OF MILITARY AID TO
TURKEY IS LIMITED ONLY TO THAT AREA WHERE THE MILITARY
STRENGTHENING OF ANKARA IMPINGES ON THE GREEK-TURKISH
DISPUTE. VIEWED IN THAT MANNER, WHATEVER DECISION THE
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AMERICAN CONGRESS TAKES CANNOT BE CHARACTERIZED AS

EITHER A GREEK VICTORY OR DEFEAT SINCE: (A) THE AMERICANS WEIGHT THEIR DECISION ON THE BASIS OF SPECIAL CRITERIA UPON WHICH GREECE CANNOT INTERFERE (I.E. QUESTIONS OF SECURITY, BASES AND AMERICAN-TURKISH RELATIONS GENERALLY); (B) AS HAS BEEN SHOWN, FRIENDS AND ALLIES OF GREECE CONSIDER - RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY - THAT THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WILL FACILITATE THE FINDING OF A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM; AND (C) AS FOR THE MILITARY BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY, WE MAY RECALL A RECENT STATEMENT OF PRESIDENT FORD THAT WITH THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO THE U.S. WOULD RESUME MILITARY AID TO OUR COUNTRY AS WELL. UNQUOTE.

3. THE STORY WAS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME IN ALL THREE NEWSPAPERS AS CITED ABOVE, EXCEPT THAT WHERE KATHIMERINI ATTRIBUTES VIEWS TO "POLITICAL OBSERVERS" AND ACROPOLIS USES THE TERM "DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS" AND RIGHTIST ELEFTHEROS COSMOS USES THE PHRASE "COMPETENT SOURCES". THE GREEK RADIO ALSO REPEATED THIS THEME IN THE COURSE OF ITS SUNDAY BROADCASTS.

4. THE ATHENS NEWS AGENCY BULLETIN, REFERRING TO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN ATHENS, SAID THE CONGRESS WOULD MAKE ITS DECISION ON THE BASIS THAT: (A) "THE QUESTION IS AN INTERNAL AFFIR OF THE U.S. CONCERNING THE COUNTRY'S SECURITY AND STRATEGY...CONSEQUENTLY GREECE CANNOT AND DID NOT INTERFERE; AND (B) IT HAS BEEN CONCLUDED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES THAT FRIENDS AND ALLIES OF GREECE - EUROPEANS AND ATHENS - BELIEVE THAT LIFTING THE EMBARGO WILL FACILITATE THE FINDING OF A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS ISSUE."
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IN ATHENS
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